



PLANT RESOURCE BIOSECURITY RESPONSE GUIDELINES
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Table of Contents

I. INTRODUCTION	1
II. PURPOSE.....	2
III. LEGAL AUTHORITY	2
A. State Authority	
B. Federal Authority	
C. Other Authority	
IV. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES	3
A. Kansas Department of Agriculture	
B. USDA-APHIS-PPQ	
C. Kansas State University	
D. Response by Others	
V. RAPID RESPONSE OVERVIEW	5
A. Discipline Advisory Teams	
B. Policy Team	
C. Response Team	
D. Public Information Team	
VI. RESPONSE IMPLEMENTATION	8
VII. RESPONSE TASK SUMMARY	9
VIII. DEFINITIONS.....	11
Attachments	
A. Response Flow Diagram	
B. Plant Pest Identification and Taxonomic Resources	

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I. INTRODUCTION

This document is intended to serve as a guide when a new plant pest is detected in Kansas. Many components of the traditional approach to plant pest control by a number of public and private organizations are incorporated into this document.

However, the realization that intentional introductions of plant pests by persons wishing to cause economic or environmental harm to Kansas natural and cultivated plant resources has added another dimension to the need to protect those resources and emphasizes the need to develop rapid response capabilities.

For the purpose of this document the term “rapid response” is defined to mean a series of coordinated activities involving one or more organizations that are initiated by the discovery of a plant pest of concern.

Rapid response activities consist of a number of components including detection, accurate identification and/or diagnostics, and mitigation activities.

It is unlikely that any single agency or organization has both the legal authority and a sufficient level of resources to conduct an effective plant pest mitigation response without the involvement and support of others.

It is important for all involved to clearly understand their roles and responsibilities in a rapid response situation.

Generally, a state or federal plant pest regulatory agency will have to be the lead agency in conducting any response activity because of the legal responsibilities assigned to that agency.

Accurate and timely plant pest identification and/or diagnostic support is critical to developing and implementing effective mitigation activities. Therefore, it will be especially important for agencies that have skills in this area be included in the planning and implementation of mitigation activities.

Organizations with plant pest identification and/or diagnostic capabilities may be one of the first to receive samples or initial indication of a potential problem. It is essential that this information be provided to regulatory agencies as soon as possible so that effective evaluation and mitigation activities can be initiated.

II. PURPOSE

The purpose of this document is to:

- Outline an effective rapid response to the detection, identification, and mitigation of new plant pests. Rapid response actions may include, but are not limited to, focused delimiting survey activities, specific control activities, quarantine, eradication, public outreach and education, and inter-agency communication and coordination.
- Provide effective and timely communication between local, regional, state and federal government agencies, academia, and plant industry professionals when response actions are needed.
- Provide effective public notification of response activities.

III. LEGAL AUTHORITY

All actions implemented are authorized by and conducted in accordance with provisions of the following:

- State Authority
 - Kansas Plant Pest and Agriculture Commodity Certification Act (K.S.A. 2-2112 et seq.) and supporting regulations (K.A.R. 4-15-4 through 4-15-14).
 - Kansas Black Stem Rust Act (K.S.A. 2-712 et seq.).
 - Kansas Criminal Code: K.S.A. 21-3419, K.S.A. 21-3436, K.S.A. 21-4221, and K.S.A. 21-4222.
 - Emergency Preparedness for Disasters: K.S.A. 48-924.
- Federal Authority
 - Agriculture Bioterrorism Protection Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-188).
 - Plant Protection Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-224, June 20, 2000).
 - Federal Plant Protection Regulations (7CFR 300-399).
- Other Agreements
 - KDA/USDA-APHIS-PPQ Cooperative Pest Control Memorandum of Understanding.

IV. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

A. Kansas Department of Agriculture. The Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA), through its Plant Protection and Weed Control Program, is the lead state agency to minimize the introduction and dissemination of plant pests into and within Kansas and to provide a regulatory response to new plant pest introductions. This program's goal and objectives relating to plant pests are listed below.

PROGRAM GOAL: The goal of this program is to ensure the health and protection of the state's natural and cultivated plant resources from arthropods, plant diseases, and weeds. This is accomplished through assigned responsibilities contained in the Kansas Plant Pest and Agriculture Commodity Certification Act, Kansas Black Stem Rust Law, Kansas Noxious Weed Law, and several federal agreements and memoranda of understanding.

OBJECTIVE #1: SAFEGUARDING. Provide a system to protect Kansas plant resources from the entry and establishment of high-risk exotic plant pests. Detecting and excluding exotic plant pests of regulatory significance will protect native and cultivated plant resources and maintain the ability to export Kansas-produced plants and plant products.

OBJECTIVE #2. EXPORT COMMODITY ASSURANCE. Provide a system to ensure that the pest freedom requirements placed on Kansas-produced commodities by domestic and foreign importers is maintained to allow expeditious movement of those commodities.

OBJECTIVE #3. PLANT PEST MANAGEMENT, CONTROL AND ERADICATION. Provide the capability to manage, control, or eradicate selected plant pests of regulatory significance that are established in the state and provide technical expertise to program cooperators involved in pest control.

Specific activities to accomplish the objectives stated above include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Conduct detection surveys for exotic plant pests.
- Conduct investigations on reported and/or suspect new detections.
- Communicate and coordinate activities with appropriate local, state, and federal agencies, academia, industry, and other appropriate organizations as related to program responsibilities.
- Confirm identification or provide specimen to appropriate taxonomic authority for identification.
- Inform the public of new plant pest detections or threats.
- Coordinate communication of new plant pest information with the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Inspection Service, Plant Protection and Quarantine (USDA-APHIS-PPQ), other appropriate state and federal agencies, state academic institutions, and industries.
- Implement and maintain appropriate state quarantines.
- Coordinate activities with USDA-APHIS-PPQ on cooperative programs.
- Review and coordinate control activities to ensure compliance with local, state, and federal laws.

B. USDA-APHIS-PPQ. USDA-APHIS-PPQ is the lead Federal agency that regulates plant pests in the United States. Some federal activities include the following:

- In cooperation with the Department of Homeland Security, examine high-risk cargo shipments for exotic plant pests at ports of entry.
- Implement federal emergency response measures to prevent dissemination of exotic plant pests when discovered.
- Provide identification services.
- Provide funding for plant pest survey and detection, monitoring, and outreach functions.
- Assist other agencies as needed in the detection, evaluation, monitoring, and eradication, of new exotic plant pest introductions.
- Create increased awareness of exotic and/or invasive plant pests through information and education.
- Transfer technology to cooperators.
- Improve management of selected exotic plant pests through development of new technology.
- Provide assistance to states for the control of exotic plant pests that may become established including development of National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 documentation, project planning, and other technical support.

C. Kansas State University Research and Extension. As the land-grant institution in Kansas, Kansas State University (KSU) has a long history of conducting research and extension programs to assist in efficient agricultural commodity production. As part of the National Plant Pest and Disease Diagnostic Network, KSU has been selected as one of five regional centers in the United States to develop distance diagnostic capabilities and will operate the Great Plains Diagnostic Network. This capability will be an integral part of any rapid response effort in Kansas.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is creating a National Plant Pest and Disease Diagnostic Network (NPPDDN) made up of experts from the nation's land-grant universities. The network will provide a cohesive distribution system to quickly detect pests and pathogens that have been deliberately introduced into agricultural and natural ecosystems, identify them, and report them to appropriate responders and decision makers.

The Great Plains Diagnostic Network is developing a web-based plant pest diagnostic and reporting system, which will help land-grant personnel submit plant samples, digital images, and detailed crop information for pest diagnosis. Advantages of this system include:

- Rapid evaluation and reporting of potential bioterrorist threats.
- Shorter response time for diagnosis.
- Established links among diagnostic labs in the GPDN and to other labs in the NPPDDN.
- Established links to regulatory agencies (including the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service and each state's Department of Agriculture).
- Better quality and uniformity of information associated with samples.
- Better record keeping and reporting of pest outbreaks.

The Plant Diagnostics Information System (PDIS) has been developed to facilitate plant diagnostic lab activities for a consortium of land grant institutions, state departments of agriculture and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. These labs provide services for plant disease diagnosis, plant identification, and insect identification. PDIS is a system of web

and database applications designed to facilitate recordkeeping and communication needs of lab personnel and their customers.

D. Kansas Biological Survey. The Kansas Biological Survey is a non-regulatory, non-degree granting research and service unit of the University of Kansas and the State of Kansas. Its programs and activities focus on environmental and biological issues at state, regional, national, and global levels.

E. Response Activities by Others. Due to the fact that many cooperating agencies have differing responsibilities, the KDA and/or USDA-APHIS-PPQ will be the lead agencies in conducting any regulatory response actions in Kansas. Other organizations may assist the lead agencies in many unique and beneficial ways, but they should not implement unilateral actions on their own as these actions may hinder official regulatory response activities. It is important for all agencies involved to remain in close communication during a rapid response so that the appropriate actions may be identified and delivered in the most effective manner possible.

V. RAPID RESPONSE OVERVIEW

When a new plant pest is detected in Kansas, the KDA will initiate an investigation of the detection and obtain specimens for identification or ensure specimens have been submitted to an expert for identification and/or confirmation.

Depending on the type of plant pest that is detected, an appropriate discipline advisory team will be activated to review the information and circumstances pertaining to the discovery. Three discipline advisory teams will be organized prior to any discovery so they can be activated as soon after discovery as possible. They are the Entomology Advisory Team, the Plant Pathology Advisory Team, and the Weed Advisory Team. Suggested members of each discipline team are as follows:

Entomology:	KDA Plant Protection and Weed Control Program Manager, team leader KDA Survey Entomologist KSU Entomology Department head or designee Extension entomology state leader Extension entomology diagnostician Affected industry representative (to be identified following discovery)
Plant Pathology:	KDA Plant Protection and Weed Control Program Manager, team leader KDA Plant Pathologist KSU Plant Pathology Department head or designee Extension plant pathology state leader Extension plant pathology diagnostician Affected industry representative (to be identified following discovery)
Weed:	KDA Plant Protection and Weed Control Program Manager, team leader KDA weed specialist KSU Agronomy Department head or designee Extension agronomy state leader Extension agronomy diagnostician KU Biological Survey representative Affected industry representative (to be identified following discovery)

Concurrent with the activation of the appropriate discipline advisory team, the Policy Team (described below) is notified.

The discipline advisory team will convene to evaluate preliminary information of the circumstances of the discovery and prepare a preliminary status evaluation report containing potential mitigation actions. Generally, response actions will be one or more of the following:

- no response
- non-regulatory response
- regulatory response
- law enforcement response

The preliminary status evaluation report is forwarded to the Policy Team described below for consideration. If the preliminary investigation indicates that an intentional act to cause harm may have occurred, the appropriate law enforcement officials are notified immediately and invited to participate on the Policy Team. The Policy Team will decide upon the appropriate response to the new plant pest detection.

Following the evaluation by the appropriate discipline advisory team, three action teams, a policy team, a response team, and a public information team will be convened as discussed below.

In the event that a decision is made to provide a non-regulatory response, the development of pest management strategies and/or best management practices could be developed by those usually responsible for these including, but not limited to, industry and research and extension.

A. POLICY TEAM. The Policy Team will identify and allocate the appropriate resources, review and approve a response plan, assign actions to be undertaken by a designated project leader, resolve issues not easily addressed by any individual on the Policy Team, and identify a public information team.

The Policy Team will consist of:

Kansas Secretary of Agriculture

KDA Chief Counsel

Plant Protection and Weed Control Program Manager

USDA-APHIS-PPQ State Plant Health Director

Associate Director, Research, Kansas State University Research and Extension

Associate Director, Extension, Kansas State University Research and Extension

KDA Public Information Officer

Others as appropriate (to be determined by the Kansas Secretary of Agriculture)

The Policy Team will appoint a KDA Project Leader to coordinate efforts within the Response Team and, in consultation with the Policy Team, provide direction to the response effort. The Project Leader is directly responsible to the Policy Team.

B. RESPONSE TEAM. The Response Team will develop and implement technical aspects of mitigating a new plant pest detection including, but not limited to, gathering and analyzing data, supporting or conducting investigations, and managing all state aspects of investigative and response functions.

Response Team members are:

KDA Plant Protection and Weed Control Program Manager

Appropriate KDA Plant Protection and Weed Control Program state specialist

USDA-APHIS-PPQ State Plant Health Director

Appropriate academic institution specialist(s)

KDA Public Information Officer

Others as needed

The Response Team, under the direction of the KDA Project Leader and appropriate KDA state specialist, will organize work force activities and other resources. Work force organization will reflect the needs of the event including staff assignments for operations and coordinating with the appropriate KDA staff responsible for finance, logistics, communications, records, and other needs.

The Response Team will also be responsible for arranging for diagnostic support that may be needed during response activities.

Issues that cannot be resolved within the Response Team will be referred to the Policy Team for discussion and resolution.

C. Public information Team. The Public information Team will develop and issue press releases, response advisories, and manage media and public relations.

Public Information Team members are:

KDA Public Information Officer

KDA Plant Protection and Weed Control Program Manager

Others as determined by the Policy Team, including, but not limited to industry and extension communications specialists

If USDA-APHIS-PPQ is involved in the response, KDA will work with the USDA-APHIS-PPQ State Plant Health Director to ensure public information releases are coordinated with the USDA-APHIS-PPQ Legislative & Public Affairs (LPA) office.

Press conferences will be held when determined appropriate by the Policy Team.

The Public Information Team will work with the Response Team to keep the Kansas Secretary of Agriculture informed of all activities.

The Public Information Team will provide assistance with drafting press release(s) for cooperating agencies, institutions, and affected industry.

The Public Information Team will coordinate activities with technical experts to ensure their availability to assist in press briefings when needed.

If other state agencies, including academic institutions, are involved in response activities each agency and/or institution will choose their own spokesperson. As far as possible, when a spokesperson is chosen, that person will serve in that capacity throughout the entire response event in order to provide continuity of information.

VI. RESPONSE IMPLEMENTATION

A. In the event of a new plant pest detection by an organization other than KDA that agency will notify the KDA who will activate the appropriate disciplinary advisory team.

B. The appropriate discipline team will evaluate the situation and determine appropriate mitigation actions.

C. If a new plant pest detection is confirmed in Kansas that requires the resources and expertise of other agencies, departments, universities, or other specialists, the Kansas Secretary of Agriculture or their designee from the Policy Team will confer with the appropriate agency head or designated representative. Once the decision is made to initiate a regulatory response, the Kansas Secretary of Agriculture or their designee will notify the necessary team members.

1. KDA staff will follow established procedures for intra-department communication. The Plant Protection and Weed Control Program Manager will have lead responsibility for notifying and mobilizing KDA staff and ensuring proper communication with the USDA-APHIS-PPQ Kansas State Plant Health Director.

2. KDA will identify and assign support staff sufficient to manage communication, logistical, and documentation needs.

3. Once activated, the Response Team will:

- a. Determine the appropriate response activities. Examples include:

- 1). Conducting intensive core survey and delimiting survey.

- 2). Investigating the method and/or pathway of new plant pest introduction. If an intentional introduction is suspected, the appropriate law enforcement agency will be notified and advised of the situation.

- 3). Assess the risk of plant pest spread from the initial detection site.
- 4). Assess the potential for harm to host species.
- b. Notify the Policy Team of the need to obtain and/or mobilize additional resources such as public information officer, other agencies, academic institutions, and laboratory or field/technical staff as necessary.
- c. Ensure appropriate diagnostic support is available.
- d. Ensure coordinated communication between field sites, the KDA Topeka office, and other agencies and organizations involved in the response.

VII. RESPONSE TASK SUMMARY

A. KDA staff:

1. Provide communications staff to prepare and issue press releases, coordinate press conferences, and deal with other communication activities.
2. Advise Policy Team and other agencies and organizations advised of response activity status.
3. Analyze submitted/collected samples of new plant pest for positive identification or verification in conjunction with USDA-APHIS-PPQ.
4. Be part of the Policy Team and the Response Team.
5. Report and disseminate activity results internally and externally as required.
6. Coordinate activities of other cooperating agencies, institutions, and organizations.
7. Develop appropriate management/mitigation protocols for infested materials (i.e., treatment, quarantine, etc.).

B. Discipline Advisory Team:

1. Ensure new plant pest specimens are identified correctly.
2. Evaluate the circumstances surrounding the new plant pest discovery.
3. Identify potential mitigation actions.
4. Provide a preliminary evaluation report to the Policy Team.
5. Upon request of the Policy Team, develop a response plan and work with the Response Team to ensure technical aspects of the selected mitigation activities are properly developed and implemented.

C. The Policy Team:

1. Allocate resources and notify other agencies, institutions, and organizations as needed.
2. Activate the Response Team.
3. Assign specific actions to the Response Team through the Project Leader.
4. Resolve issues related to Response Team activities.
5. Activate the Public Information Team.
6. If needed, develop inter-agency financial agreements.

D. The Response Team:

1. Implement response activities.
2. Utilize the basic organizational structure for Federal/State emergency projects and ensure expertise of appropriate discipline advisory team is utilized effectively.
3. Coordinate field activities including inspections, investigations, and surveys.
4. Evaluate data collected during the response actions and use this data to adjust response actions.
5. Provide progress reports to the Policy Team and Public Information Team.
6. Notify the Policy Team of perceived resource needs.

E. The Public Information Team:

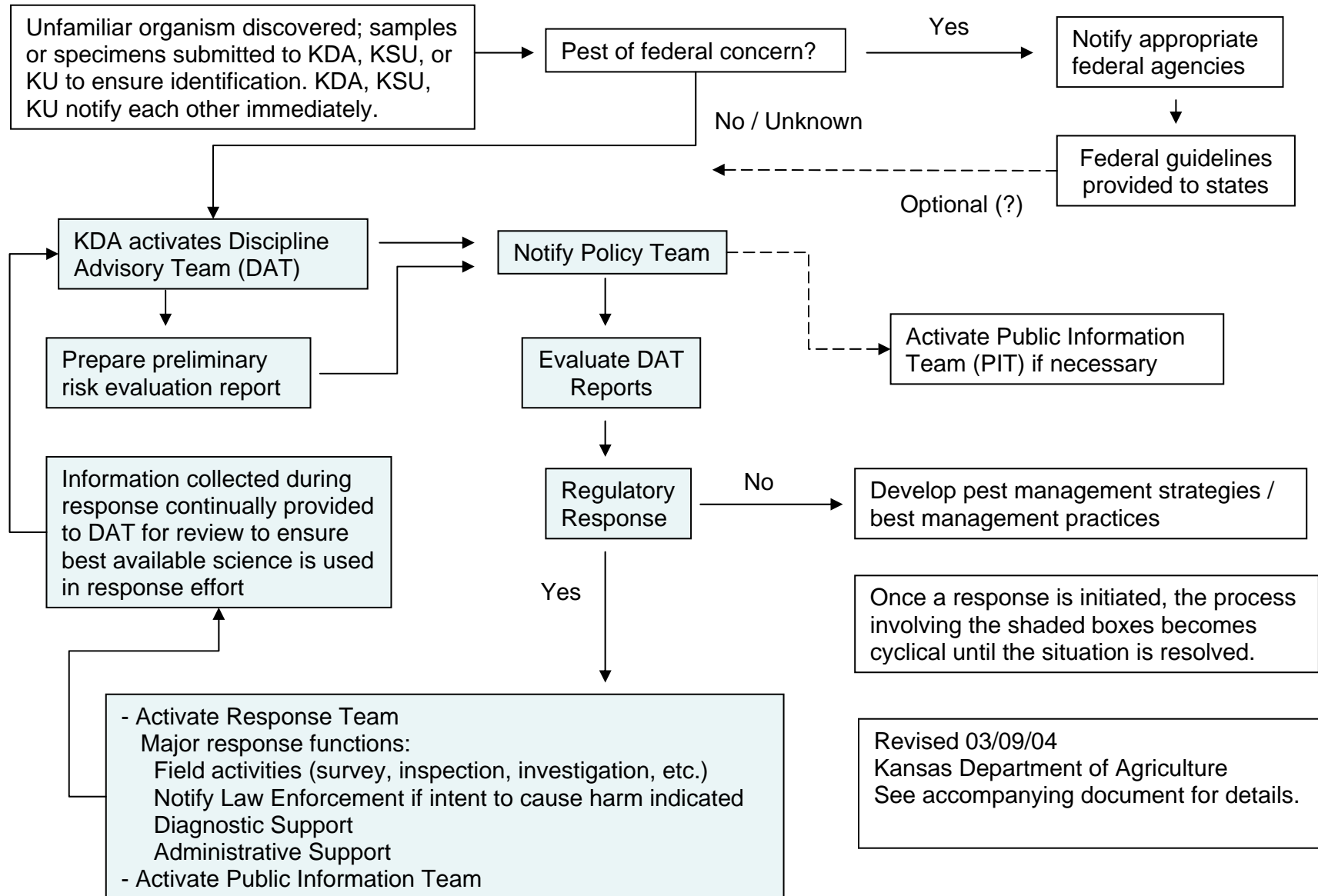
1. Develop and issue press releases.
2. Coordinate media contacts and information dispersal through industry, extension, and others as appropriate.
3. Arrange and conduct press conferences as needed.
4. Provide incident updates to the Policy Team.

VIII. DEFINITIONS

“Plant pest” means any stage of development of any insect, nematode, arachnid, or any other invertebrate animal, or any bacteria, fungus, virus, weed or any other parasitic plant or microorganism which can injure plants or plant products (K.S.A. 2-2113).

“Rapid response” means a series of coordinated activities involving one or more organizations that are initiated by the discovery of a plant pest of concern.

Kansas Plant Pest Response Flow Diagram



Appendix B

Plant Pest Identification and Taxonomic Resources

NOTE: This section is under development and is not complete. This section will eventually contain listings of in-state public and private sector taxonomic experts and their area of specialization under the general disciplines listed below.

Arthropods

- KSU Entomology Department
- KU Entomology Department
- Kansas Department of Agriculture

Nematodes

- KSU Plant Pathology Department

Plant Pathogens

- KSU Plant Disease Diagnostic Clinic
- Kansas Department of Agriculture

Weeds, Plants

- KSU Herbarium
- KSU Agronomy Department
- KU Herbarium
- Kansas Biological Survey
- Kansas Department of Agriculture

Mollusks (?)